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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 CITIBANK, N.A.,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

20 CV 6539 (JMF)

Telephone Conference

6 BRIGADE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT,
7 L.P., et al.

8 Defendants.

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9 New York, N.Y.

10 August 18, 2020

9:14 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. JESSE M. FURMAN,

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 MAYER BROWN LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff Citibank, N.A.

16 BY: MATTHEW INGBER

CHRISTOPHER J. HOUP

17 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN LLP

18 Attorneys for Defendant Brigade Capital Management, L.P.

19 BY: ROBERT LOIGMAN

BENJAMIN FINESTONE

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(The Court and all parties appearing telephonically)

THE COURT: Good morning. This is Judge Furman. If, at any point, you can't hear anyone or hear me, just let me know.

Before I take appearances from counsel, a few housekeeping matters.

First, anytime you speak, please start with stating your name, just so the court reporter and I know who is speaking and the record is clear.

When you're not speaking, please have your phone on mute to minimize background noise distraction, but remember, of course, to unmute yourself when you want to say something.

Now, if there is a chime at some point, that means that someone else may have joined or left. If the case may be, if you're speaking, pause for a moment so I can take stock of what has happened.

A reminder to everyone that recording the conference is strictly prohibited, but it is a public conference, as it would be if it were in open court.

With that, I will take appearances. I'd like one counsel from each side just to state appearances for anyone who is participating, starting with the plaintiff, please.

MR. INGBER: Good morning, your Honor. This is Matthew Ingber, and I'm joined by my colleague, Christopher Houpt, from Mayer Brown for Citibank.

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1 THE COURT: Good morning to both of you. Haven't seen
2 you in a while, but good to hear you.

3 For defendant.

4 MR. LOIGMAN: Good morning, your Honor. This is
5 Robert Loigman of Quinn Emanuel. I'm with my partner, Ben
6 Finestone. We represent the defendant, Brigade Capital
7 Management.

8 THE COURT: Good morning to you guys, as well. Thank
9 you, all, for joining on relatively short notice.

10 Mr. Loigman, thank you for your letter that I received
11 and read early this morning, which, certainly, was quite
12 helpful.

13 Now, let me start on that by giving Mr. Ingber an
14 opportunity to respond to the letter. In particular, there are
15 two points I'd like your response to.

16 One is the claim that the monies you're seeking are
17 not actually in the possession of Brigade, that they were
18 wired, essentially, to particular funds, as I understand it,
19 and that Brigade is just the manager for the funds, but not the
20 recipient of the wires themselves.

21 Second, perhaps more fundamentally, to respond to
22 *Banque Worms'* argument, I will say that I'm a little surprised
23 that you didn't address that in your initial motion papers,
24 just because the discharge for value rule does seem to be, if
25 not directly on point, certainly close to it. In that regard,

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1 I would have thought that you'd try to address why it's not
2 applicable here, but I'll give you a chance to do that now.

3 MR. INGBER: Thank you, your Honor. I'll address the
4 first point, and if it's acceptable to the Court, Mr. Houpt is
5 going to address the discharge for value point.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MR. INGBER: So, on the first point, your Honor, we
8 are suing Brigade as manager for these 40 or so funds that
9 received wires from Citi mistakenly. There is a dispute, I
10 suppose, whether these were mistaken payments, whether it was
11 an error or not. We think that point is actually indisputable,
12 and we lay out all the reasons in our papers.

13 As manager of these various funds, Brigade, we
14 believe, from our perspective, controls whether or not these
15 funds are going to return the payment to Citi or not. It's no
16 coincidence that all of these funds, all 40 of these funds,
17 have not returned the payment to Citi. Brigade has said to
18 Citi, flat out, that they believe there was, in fact, not an
19 error in the payment of these funds to the various Brigade
20 funds.

21 What we're seeking is, in the form of our temporary
22 relief here, is to prevent the dissipation or the distribution
23 of these funds to the ultimate beneficiaries, and we're seeking
24 that relief against Brigade, as the manager of these funds,
25 because we think they act -- and this is in our relief section

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1 of the complaint -- in concert with, or in participation with
2 these funds. So, we think they have control over whether or
3 not these funds are returned.

4 We think that it was certainly no surprise to Brigade
5 and -- excuse me, it was a surprise to Brigade, and these
6 funds, when they received more than 100 times what they
7 expected to receive based on the calculation statement that
8 Citi had sent over immediately prior to the wire payments.

9 Like I said, we don't think it's a coincidence, at
10 all, that, ultimately, it was these 40 funds, at the direction
11 of Brigade, that have refused to return those funds to Citi.
12 While Brigade itself wasn't a direct recipient of these funds,
13 the funds that it manages were, the funds it controls were. A
14 lot of these funds are Brigade funds. They are CLOs and other
15 funds that actually have Brigade in the name of these funds.

16 It's difficult for us to accept and, based on our
17 experience, inconsistent with -- you know, it's difficult to
18 accept that Brigade didn't have control over whether or not
19 these funds would be returned. From Citi's perspective,
20 Brigade is the party with whom they communicate. Brigade is
21 the party that is setting up the investment on behalf of these
22 various funds. Brigade is the one that is documenting the
23 investment on behalf of all of these funds. So, from Citi's
24 perspective, Brigade is the appropriate party in a position to
25 decide whether or not -- or to direct the funds, whether or not

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1 to return the funds to Citi.

2 THE COURT: A couple followup questions. Although you
3 say that it would have been or should have been obvious, given
4 that it was 100 times or so the interest payment due, is it
5 correct that it was the amount of principal outstanding to the
6 penny?

7 MR. INGBER: It was the amount of principal. That's a
8 correct statement.

9 A few things. Number one, there was, as I said, a
10 calculation statement that was sent prior to the wire. We
11 attached that to our papers. The calculation statement itself
12 said that Citi would be paying interest. The borrower, Revlon,
13 distributed to Citi only the amount of interest that Citi had
14 intended to send by wire to the lenders. This is Citi money
15 that was paid. The borrower never sent the amount of principal
16 or the overpayment to Citi for distribution to the lenders.
17 Based on public reports --

18 THE COURT: Let me interrupt you. That's not my
19 question. My question isn't whether the amount of principal
20 was sent in error, and I certainly understand your arguments
21 for why that is the case and the circumstantial evidence of why
22 that is the case. My question is, from the recipient
23 standpoint, is it correct that it was to the penny, the amount
24 of principal outstanding, putting aside whatever reference to
25 interest is in the papers, that were sent at the time? I take

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1 it the answer is yes?

2 MR. INGBER: The answer is yes. It was the amount of
3 the principle outstanding, plus the interest that Citi had
4 intended to distribute, and, in fact, did distribute on that
5 day. So, it's the outstanding principal, plus this periodic
6 interest payment that was being made.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have authority for the
8 proposition that Brigade is the proper party to sue, if you're
9 seeking to freeze the particular funds involved, as opposed to
10 the Brigade opportunistic credit LBG Fund, and whatever the
11 other 39 or so funds are?

12 MR. INGBER: What we have is our factual understanding
13 of Brigade's interactions and control over those funds. If
14 we're seeking to avoid dissipation or distribution to the
15 ultimate beneficiaries, we need to sue the party that we
16 believe has control over those funds.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Then the last factual question,
18 then I'll turn to Mr. Houpt.

19 In the letter I received this morning, there is at
20 least a suggestion, I'm not sure that that matters, but a
21 suggestion that Brigade is not the only lender who has refused
22 to return the funds, but you had alleged in your moving papers,
23 I think, that it was. Can you just clarify that?

24 MR. INGBER: Yes. So, Brigade, as far as we
25 understand, is the only lender that has flat out refused to

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1 return the funds. So, there are many lenders that have
2 returned the funds. Citi is in communication with various
3 other lenders about the return of these funds, but it was
4 Brigade, the largest lender here, that has flat out refused to
5 return the funds on the ground that these actually weren't made
6 in error.

7 THE COURT: All right. I'm sorry, I do have one other
8 question before I turn to Mr. Houpt.

9 Can you just explain what the relationship is to the
10 civil case pending before Judge Schofield, and your view on
11 whether this is related to that litigation? I mean, I'm going
12 to handle the emergency motion, regardless, but I guess the
13 question is, going forward, if it would make sense for the
14 single judge to be handling all of it or whether they're
15 discrete disputes.

16 MR. INGBER: We think they're discrete disputes.

17 This is a question of whether there was an erroneous
18 payment made, and whether \$175 million of Citibank's money,
19 that Brigade wasn't entitled to, should be returned to Citi.

20 The other dispute raises entirely separate issues.
21 The only relevance of the other dispute, in our view, is that
22 it was filed, it was filed after this mistaken payment was made
23 and it seeks the repayment of the debt.

24 So, two things happened immediately after Citibank
25 made this mistaken payment.

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1 Number one, the party that Brigade says is the
2 successor agent to this facility sent the notice to accelerate
3 the loan, number one.

4 Number two, that same purported agent sued Revlon, and
5 Citi, and others for repayment of the debt.

6 So, counsel for Brigade has said, in their response
7 papers, well, that was in the works, that complaint was in the
8 works. It's a 117-page complaint, it takes time to prepare
9 that, and so that's why it was filed.

10 They didn't need to file it. If they had thought that
11 this payment was made intentionally by Citibank, using Citibank
12 funds, not borrower funds, when this loan was trading 30 cents
13 on the dollar, and Revlon, by all accounts, and also by
14 plaintiff, by Brigade, or by their purported agent's own
15 account, in the UMB complaint that was filed before Judge
16 Schofield, by all of those accounts, Revlon couldn't pay back
17 this loan. Paragraph 171 of the UMB complaint says there was a
18 lack of any prospect for Revlon to pay its debts as they come
19 due for an indeterminate period. So, they're alleging that
20 Revlon was insolvent in the spring of 2020.

21 It's very difficult for us to accept that they
22 actually believe that, out of the blue, when this loan was
23 trading 30 cents on the dollar and Revlon was having liquidity
24 issues during a pretty serious period of financial distress,
25 all of a sudden, Citibank, on behalf of Revlon, was paying

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1 \$900 million in principal. That's just not credible, in our
2 view.

3 We think that the filing on the next day, and the
4 notice of acceleration on the next day, betrays what the
5 lenders were actually thinking, which is, this was a mistaken
6 payment. This loan is not being paid off out of the blue using
7 Citibank's money. So that, we think, is the only relevance of
8 the UMB complaint.

9 That's going to be litigated separately. There are a
10 number of allegations against a number of different parties
11 there, and we are going to fight that on the merits. We think
12 there are standing issues with respect to UMB as the plaintiff
13 because we don't think they're properly the agent, but that can
14 be litigated entirely separately.

15 This is a matter that involves very discrete issues.
16 It has to be, we believe, respectfully, resolved on an
17 accelerated basis. It's hundreds of millions of dollars that
18 are due to be returned to Citi. We think it raises serious
19 issues for the banking industry. If players like Brigade can
20 understand, by all accounts, that this was unintentional, that
21 this was a mistake, and then reap a windfall from this, we
22 think we need to get to an early resolution on this, and we
23 think that the other case is not related.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Houpt, let me turn to you and ask you
25 to address the discharge for value rule. In particular, I

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1 think the question in my mind is, to me, that rule seems pretty
2 clearly applicable here. The only question is whether Brigade,
3 to the extent that it is a recipient of the funds, at all, was,
4 quote-unquote, on notice of the error.

5 That brings up a legal question and a factual
6 question. The factual question is, whether and to what extent
7 it was either actually on notice or on inquiry notice? The
8 legal question is, what constitutes sufficient notice? Whether
9 it has to be something akin to the notice that was apparently
10 sent the day after these transfers, saying this was sent in
11 mistake, or if the sort of circumstantial finds of an error are
12 sufficient, in some sense, inquiry notice would suffice.

13 In that regard, Mr. Ingber's concession that the
14 amount of the transfer was, to the penny, the exact amount of
15 principal, plus interest, owed, seems rather significant to me,
16 granted the papers made reference to interest, but the
17 recipient could easily have concluded, for instance, that the
18 papers were wrong, and omitting any reference to principal,
19 since the payment, apparently, did include interest.

20 So, why don't you start with the legal question of
21 what notice suffices to get you out of the discharge for value
22 rule.

23 MR. HOUP: Sure. I think you heard some of the
24 relevant facts that I think your Honor addressed; I'll put that
25 within the legal framework.

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1 I can start with notice, but there are two important
2 aspects of the discharge for value rule. One is whether the
3 transferee is on notice, but the other is that there has to be
4 a discharge of the debt because of the animating principle
5 behind this rule, which comes from the restatement of
6 restitution. It's an equitable concept. It would be
7 inequitable to require restitution from an innocent transferee
8 who has actually done something as a result of the payments.
9 He has surrendered his debt, his promissory note, his release
10 to the lien, he signed a discharge letter. So, it would be
11 unfair, after the transferee has done that, to try to claw the
12 money back.

13 So, as to notice, the notice did not have to be
14 actual. In the alternative, it is not inquiry notice, as their
15 letter suggests. The alternative is constructive notice, and
16 that has been expressly adopted, at least by the Sixth Circuit.

17 I'd refer the Court to *In re: Calumet Farm*, which is
18 398 F.3d 555. That's the Sixth Circuit case from 2005.

19 On page 560, the Court says, "Any sensible application
20 of the discharge for value rule in this unique setting must
21 account for constructive as well as actual notice of a
22 mistake."

23 We're not arguing -- and I can start pointing to the
24 relevant facts -- that they needed to launch an investigation.
25 The question is, what factual circumstances were already

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1 available to them that would have suggested that this was an
2 error?

3 One of the facts that the Court in *Calumet Farm* found
4 to be highly relevant was that the memo in the wire
5 instructions contains the rather cryptic phrase "Mogambo Int."
6 That case involves a promissory note relating to the purchase
7 of a horse called Mogambo. The letters I-N-T indicated that an
8 interest payment was intended, but, instead, a much larger
9 amount, still less than the outstanding debt, was paid. The
10 Court said that the fact that there was this statement that INT
11 was intended, that was part of what put the recipient on notice
12 that the excess amount was in error.

13 Here, we have much more than that. Exhibit A to this
14 Zeigon declaration, it is a very elaborate calculation
15 statement that does more than what the defendant's letter
16 suggests. It doesn't simply explain the calculation of the
17 complicated part of the payment of interest. It neither shows
18 you how the interest was paid, but they seem to imply that Citi
19 might have been throwing in other amounts that would be obvious
20 and don't need explanation.

21 At the end of Exhibit A, the statement says, "We will
22 credit your account representing the above interim interest
23 based on the following instruction," and it has the dates and
24 the currency, and it says, "total due." The amount, down to
25 the penny, is exactly the interest amount that was calculated

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1 above. Then it says, "Less tax withholding, zero." Then it
2 says, "credit amount," and again, that's the interest amount,
3 "does not include any principal."

4 So, they received a statement from Citibank that made
5 perfect sense. It correctly calculated the interest that was
6 actually due under the credit agreement on that day, and it
7 said we are going to credit your account in that amount. Then
8 they got a wire transfer that didn't match.

9 Now, they may be able to concoct some explanation for
10 why that actual transfer amount couldn't have been explained,
11 but on its face, there was obviously evidence of an error.
12 There was a discrepancy between the expressed statement and the
13 amount of the payment, and that just put them on notice. It
14 certainly, under the equitable concept of restitution and
15 discharge for value, makes them not an innocent party. If they
16 choose to willfully say, no, we're going to ignore the
17 calculation statement and come up with a reason to think that
18 the payment was actually a prepayment of principal, that's not
19 equitable conduct.

20 The second relevant fact is that, as I mentioned, the
21 interest was the only thing that was actually due and payable
22 on that date. This is relevant to their setoff argument under
23 section 10.7(b) on page 4 of their letter. They said that they
24 have a right of setoff, but that provision says that it only
25 applies to amounts that are due and payable by the borrower

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1 hereunder. The principal was not due and payable by Revlon for
2 another three years. That was further reason that, not only
3 can he not exercise setoff, but they should have at least
4 wondered why the principal was suddenly paid.

5 In addition, as we pointed out in our papers,
6 prepayment requires various procedural requirements. You don't
7 just send out money and let the borrowers make their own
8 inferences about what that money is. There are prepayment
9 notices that are required at least three business days in
10 advance of any prepayment. Again, they try to disparage the --
11 they refer to that as a gestural heads up, but the plaintiff's
12 failure to send a prepayment notice would result in a breach of
13 contract claim against Revlon for damages from a lack of
14 notice.

15 The plaintiffs attest that the absence of a prepayment
16 notice, combined with all the other facts -- the fact that we
17 told them we were paying interest; the fact that they
18 apparently believe that Revlon was not only insolvent, but also
19 didn't have any cash; their recent financial statements, I'm
20 told, showed that Revlon had significantly less cash at the end
21 of the last quarter than the amount of this payment, which we
22 believe a sophisticated lender like Brigade would be well aware
23 of -- the absence of the prepayment notice is yet another fact
24 that fits into the overall circumstances to tell them something
25 is wrong with this payment. That's most of what's relevant on

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1 notice.

2 The other point that's relevant --

3 THE COURT: Can I interrupt for a moment. Do you have
4 any New York authority for the proposition that constructive
5 notice is the proper standard?

6 MR. HOUP: I don't think I have a New York case
7 offhand that expressly addresses the distinction between
8 constructive and actual notice. *Calumet* discusses the *Banque*
9 *Worms* case that says constructive versus actual is not the
10 issue there. I certainly have not seen anything in New York
11 that suggests that actual notice is required under the
12 discharge for value rule.

13 THE COURT: Okay. So, quickly on the discharge point
14 and then I'll hear from the other side. I have to warn
15 everybody that I have a 10 o'clock bail hearing. Given the
16 virtual world we're in, I can't simply make people wait in the
17 courtroom. So, I do need to wrap this up and have time to go
18 there, but go ahead.

19 MR. HOUP: I'll try to be quick.

20 On the discharge claim, again, the archetypal examples
21 here are things like surrendering a promissory note, releasing
22 a lien, doing something detrimental that's irreversible. Here,
23 not only do we not have that, but we have the exact opposite.
24 The day after they contend the debt was discharged, they
25 directed their self-appointed agent to accelerate the debt.

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1 First of all, we believe that they did that because
2 they wanted to make the debt due and payable so they can
3 exercise their setoff rights, which is the kind of
4 opportunistic conduct that equity does not allow, but it also
5 shows they did not believe that the debt was discharged. They
6 believed that it was outstanding and they needed to accelerate
7 it.

8 The other fact, which Mr. Ingber addressed, is that a
9 full day after that, they filed a lawsuit seeking specific
10 performance of the credit agreement that they are now going to
11 tell you was fully discharged. If that were true, there
12 wouldn't even be an article to free case or controversy in the
13 case before Judge Schofield. Even if they attribute that to
14 some sort of law office error, that case is still outstanding.

15
16 THE COURT: Let me interrupt. Maybe there is a case
17 or controversy problem, but that's neither here nor there.

18 What, in *Banque Worms*, suggests that they needed to do
19 something for the discharge for value rule to apply? It seems
20 like, if I'm not mistaken, *Banque Worms*' notice of the mistake
21 was given within two hours or so. I don't think there was any
22 discharge on the part of the lender in that case. Isn't the
23 reference to discharge just for payment itself?

24 MR. HOUP: At a minimum, even if there is not
25 destruction of a note, there has to be an accounting that

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1 reflects the discharge. So, the transferee -- and this
2 happened in *Calumet*, as well -- they received the payment at
3 one time, but then it was only a few hours later that they
4 altered their accounts to reflect the fact that the debt had
5 been paid.

6 In this case, that presents a very clean question,
7 because the lender's accounts are not what matter under a
8 syndicated loan. It's the administrative agent, which is
9 Citibank, that maintains the official register of what is owed
10 by the lender. And, precisely because the borrower did not
11 remit principal funds to Citi, Citi did not adjust the register
12 to reduce the principal amount. Therefore, as a formal matter,
13 the debt was not discharged in any sense. It had not been
14 discharged at all. It certainly was not discharged before we
15 gave them express written notice on the 12th that the payment
16 was in error.

17 THE COURT: All right. Last question for your side,
18 either you or Mr. Ingber, and I'll turn to Mr. Loigman briefly.

19 Obviously, it's black letter law that money alone is
20 not irreparable harm. It doesn't constitute irreparable harm.
21 How do you address that argument here, granted, you're seeking
22 the freeze or return of particular funds, but, particularly, if
23 Brigade itself doesn't have them -- and there is no showing of
24 their involvement -- or couldn't repay them, why can't this
25 case just be litigated in the normal course?

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1 MR. INGBER: So, your Honor, I'm happy to address
2 that. The issue is insolvency. In --

3 THE COURT: You need to start with your name.

4 MR. INGBER: I'm sorry. Matthew Ingber. Let me
5 address that. I'm sorry.

6 So, the issue is not one of insolvency, and I don't
7 believe any of the cases require a finding of insolvency in
8 circumstances like this as a prerequisite to showing
9 irreparable harm. The issue is the nature of the structure
10 between Brigade and its various funds.

11 Now, we don't have as much visibility into the
12 organizational structure of this fund, but we know that the
13 funds consist of CLOs, among other types of funds, that make
14 frequent distributions to investors. We know that if investors
15 in CLOs are seeing that there could be a judgment against
16 Brigade, they can easily liquidate the CLOs. We know that
17 there's other funds that, just as a matter of practice,
18 commingle cash, and are likely to commingle Citibank's money
19 with other assets to make payments to ultimate beneficiaries
20 down the line.

21 So, that is the irreparable harm, is having to
22 litigate where that money is, in whose hands that money has
23 wound up, and trying to eventually claw that back.

24 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Loigman, briefly, so that
25 we can figure out how to go forward. If you want to respond to

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1 the points that have been made, starting with whether the money
2 is in your control, and the sufficient way to justify suing you
3 as opposed to the funds themselves.

4 MR. LOIGMAN: Thank you, your Honor. Robert Loigman
5 of Quinn Emanuel.

6 I think your Honor started in the right place, which
7 is that they have chosen to sue Brigade, presumably for some
8 strategic reason. Citi, itself, wired the funds to the 43
9 lenders that Brigade advises, and, of course, Citi wired the
10 money to them because they're the actual lenders to Revlon.
11 They're the ones who were entitled to receipt of those funds.

12 What they're asking for, in the temporary restraining
13 order, specifically, was that the money not be distributed to
14 the exact entities to whom Citibank already has distributed the
15 funds. If you try to further enjoin those entities from
16 distributing funds, you would have to address those entities.

17 Mr. Ingber, I think, made the point that Brigade has
18 control over those various funds. Frankly, I don't know the
19 extent to which that is true, but what I do know is there are
20 lots of different types of accounts that are under management.
21 Yes, there are CLOs, but there are also pension funds, there
22 are managed accounts, there are investment funds. There is a
23 wide array with various different rules that apply to the
24 different funds. They have different fiduciary duties to their
25 investors. So, to sort of target Brigade, as if they were the

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1 lender here, just doesn't work, and it doesn't make sense with
2 respect to the type of relief that we're seeking.

3 Your Honor, I would press on to the other issues.

4 The principle issue, really, here, is that *Banque*
5 *Worms* is directly on point. New York has adopted the discharge
6 for value rule. That's a case that went from the Southern
7 District to the Second Circuit, certified to the New York Court
8 of Appeals. The language of the case, and what happened there,
9 really could not be any more on point.

10 THE COURT: Can you just address the constructive
11 notice point or, legally, what level of notice is required. To
12 the extent that it is constructive notice, why wasn't Brigade
13 on constructive notice here, given the reference in Exhibit A
14 to the declaration of interest, crediting the account and so
15 forth.

16 MR. LOIGMAN: Sure, your Honor. It's Robert Loigman
17 again.

18 First of all, *Banque Worms* is not about constructive
19 notice at all. The *Calumet* case, that was cited by Citibank's
20 counsel, distinguishes *Banque Worms* on that basis. It says
21 that, in *Banque Worms*, that the creditor should -- that case
22 says that notice, under *Banque Worms*, and also under the *GECC*
23 case in the Seventh Circuit, Judge Easterbrook, which relies
24 heavily on *Banque Worms*, that's 49 F.3d 284. It says, the
25 notice must occur before the funds arrive, and the creditor

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1 should be able to treat funds credited in apparent payment of
2 the debt as irrevocably his, unless news of the error precedes
3 arrival of the funds.

4 There's nothing in *Banque Worms* that suggests that a
5 lender, in the position of the 43 lenders here, has to troll
6 the record to try to determine whether, in fact, the payment is
7 correct. The presumption is that the payment is correct when
8 it's received.

9 That goes to the policy points that are made at the
10 end of *Banque Worms* where it talks about the finality in
11 business transactions, and that recipients of fund transfers
12 shouldn't have to look behind that transfer to determine
13 whether the amount was accurate, or whether the payment was
14 made correctly. If they receive an amount in good faith,
15 they're entitled to treat that as a correct payment without
16 having to do the type of forensic inquiry that is being
17 suggested by Citibank here. So, I think *Banque Worms* and
18 *GECC* -- and those are New York authority, and *GECC*, while on
19 the Seventh Circuit, it specifically talked about New York law
20 and *Banque Worms* -- are directly on point.

21 You also have other New York case law that makes
22 clear, again, that you don't have to look behind a transfer
23 when you receive it, because inquiry notice does not apply. I
24 think that point of law, your Honor, is very clearly addressed
25 by New York law.

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1 The other related point that they make is that there
2 had to be some sort of reliance that, for example, there had to
3 be some recording of debt being discharged, whatever the
4 reliance may be; I'm not sure what they would point to.

5 Again, on that issue, *Banque Worms* could not be
6 clearer. It says, in its decision, that it's adopting the
7 decision that it is to make clear that you don't need to have
8 some sort of reliance. Reliance is the opposite rule that
9 could apply. It's saying here that you don't need reliance
10 because the finality of the transfers is really what that issue
11 is, and that's what the New York policy is.

12 THE COURT: Let me cut you off, just because I need to
13 bring this to a close. I want to talk about the next steps.

14 I'm going to reserve judgment on the immediate
15 application because I got notice of this, no pun intended, last
16 night. It wasn't until this morning, shortly before this
17 conference, that I saw the defendant's letter, and was even
18 made aware of *Banque Worms*, I haven't read *GECC*, and I learned
19 about *Calumet* just on this call. Again, I'm a little surprised
20 these issues weren't addressed in the moving papers in the
21 first instance, which would have made my task a lot easier.

22 My question is, what happens? Obviously, if I grant
23 the TRO, we'll proceed to brief the preliminary injunction. If
24 I deny it, and deny it on the grounds of, for instance, not
25 likely to succeed on the merits, I presume that that would

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1 resolve both the TRO and the preliminary injunction, and we
2 would just proceed with the case in the normal course.

3 Can you give me, briefly, your respective views on
4 those issues and next steps. Let me start with Mr. Ingber.

5 MR. INGBER: Sure, your Honor. This is Matthew
6 Ingber.

7 We think that's right. I mean, we think, obviously,
8 that the TRO should issue on the control point. If Brigade has
9 control, then they're going to have to make sure that nothing
10 happens with respect to Citibank's money. If they don't have
11 control, then, I suppose, it's not going to be an issue for
12 them. So, we think it should issue.

13 Just one related point. If, ultimately, that is a
14 sticking point for the Court, we can amend the complaint. We
15 can add the funds, and then we're probably going to be back on
16 the phone, talking about the same issues, presumably involving
17 the same counsel and the same substantive law.

18 So, that's where we stand on the control issue.

19 THE COURT: What if I advise that the discharge for
20 value rule applies here, and, essentially, you're not entitled
21 to the money back or at least entitled to a TRO? I presume the
22 case proceeds in the normal course?

23 MR. INGBER: I think so. And we have some responses
24 to Mr. Loigman's arguments.

25 I know we're short on time, but, certainly, the notion

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1 that we would expect a forensic investigation, it's just not
2 true. Everything was on the face of the document. They knew
3 and it was reflected by the filing the next day in the notice
4 of acceleration, but, in the interest of time, we'll focus on
5 procedure.

6 We would proceed, but we would ask to proceed on an
7 accelerated basis. We think it is critical that we get to
8 resolution of these issues. It's critical that Citibank gets
9 its money back. If we have to proceed with the case, we're
10 going to want the documents, the internal documents at Brigade
11 and its funds. I suspect we're going to see some surprise on
12 their part that, as I said, out of the blue, they got this
13 windfall payment that they never expected and never got notice
14 of, so we would want to move pretty quickly on that.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Loigman.

16 MR. LOIGMAN: Your Honor, Robert Loigman.

17 It won't surprise you that I disagree with what
18 Mr. Ingber said. With respect to going forward, we think
19 *Banque Worms* is squarely on point, all fours, and therefore
20 would suggest that it makes sense to deny the TRO and to deny
21 the preliminary injunction at the same time.

22 With respect to control, again, we think that
23 Citibank, itself, made the payments to all of the entities that
24 it's saying the money shouldn't be distributed to. So we just
25 don't see there being any issue on that.

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1 THE COURT: Let me interrupt. Does it make sense to
2 deny the TRO but reserve judgment on the PI and have you
3 formally respond to it, or do you think you've essentially made
4 the arguments that you would make in connection with that?

5 MR. LOIGMAN: It probably does not make sense, your
6 Honor, largely because, regardless of control, I think *Banque*
7 *Worms* is squarely on point, and that would defeat both the TRO
8 and the preliminary injunction.

9 If control were the only remaining issue, I'm not
10 sure, because, as I said, we haven't investigated it, whether
11 there would be anything further to say. As I noted before,
12 it's a wide range of funds, and there are a lot of them at
13 issue, and Citibank has already sent the money to them.

14 With respect to the other issue you raised about going
15 forward, I didn't have a chance, of course, just because of
16 timing, to address whether we would even have notice, given the
17 documents they point to.

18 I would tell you, of course, that we don't think those
19 add up to notice at all, under any circumstances. You received
20 full payment on your loans, and a calculation that corresponds
21 to that, and wire transfers that confirm that, and on its face,
22 it makes sense to think to receive payment on your loans. In
23 fact, what they don't mention is, Revlon has recently paid off
24 other loans that were trading well below par, at full value, as
25 part of its financial restructuring. It just announced that it

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1 had hired PJT, an investment bank, to come in and address,
2 specifically, these loans. So, the idea these loans would be
3 paid off is not farfetched, at all.

4 Going forward, procedurally, one of the questions that
5 you asked of Citibank was whether this case is related to the
6 case now before Judge Schofield. If this case goes forward, I
7 would submit, your Honor, it is related to that case. That
8 case is going to have direct impact on that case. For example,
9 they mentioned a section 10.7(b) and how it could apply in the
10 event of acceleration. One of the issues --

11 THE COURT: Mr. Loigman, we're getting a little far
12 field. We can address that --

13 MR. LOIGMAN: I'm sorry, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: -- but I do need to wrap up. I'm going to
15 leave it there for now, reserve judgment, because I want to
16 look at the few cases that you all have cited and relied upon,
17 which I didn't have notice of before this proceeding. I'll
18 issue a ruling later today, at a minimum, on the TRO, and
19 perhaps on the PI, depending on the conclusions I reach, and we
20 can go from there.

21 With that, we are adjourned. I thank you all for
22 convening on short notice. I'm sure I'll speak to you all at
23 some point soon again. Thank you. Bye-bye.

24 * * *